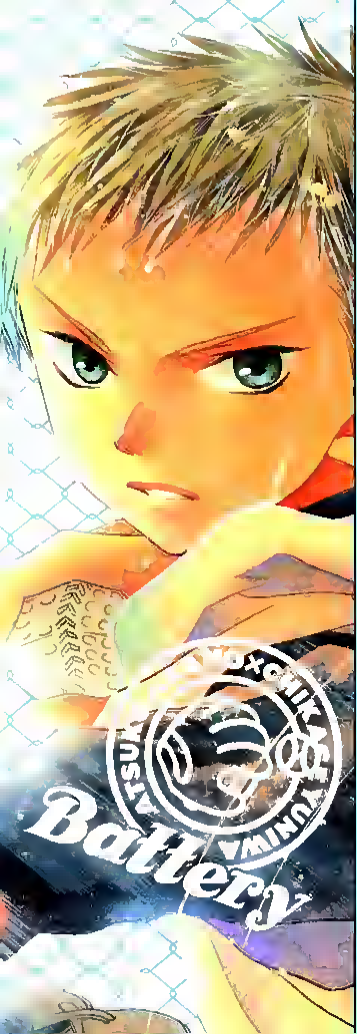

Volume 1
Chapter 1

Shouja Sense

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バッテリー

Battery

1

原作 あさのあつこ

作画 柚庭千景

ASUKA COMICS

バッテリー

Battery

1

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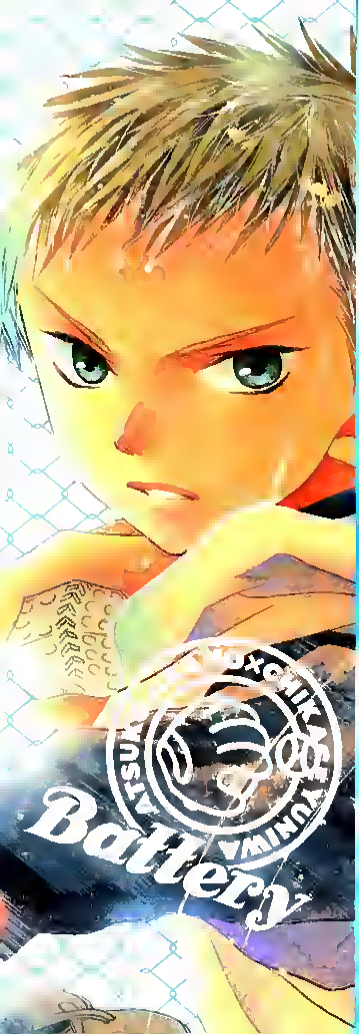
全力のおれのボールを
確かに受けとめる奴がいる。
それがこんなに心地いい！

中学入学を目前にひかえた春休み、孤高の天才ピッチャー・原田巧の前に現れた同級生・永倉豪は彼の才能に惚れ込み、バッテリーを組むことを熱望するが――!?
巧と豪、正反対な性格の二人が出会い、最高のバッテリーが今ここに誕生する!!

ASUKA COMICS



原作 あさのあつこ

あさのです。趣味は散歩しながら鼻歌を歌うことです。悩みは、腰痛と飼い猫の脱み癖です。だれか治して。

作画 柚庭千景

平和主義な天秤座の、マイペースなO型。
座右の銘は「継続は力なり」。
理想のタイプは井岡洋三さん。
…という訳で、じいちゃん大好きです…!(←告白)

Cover Design Terumi Ishikawa

ASUKA COMICS

1

ASUKA COMICS

あすかコミックス

バッテリー

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BATTER OUT!!
STRIKE!
GAME SET!!
Uuuuh
NO HIT, NO RUN?
THAT PITCHER IS REALLY GOOD.
HARADA TAKUMI, RIGHT?
CHAPTER 1

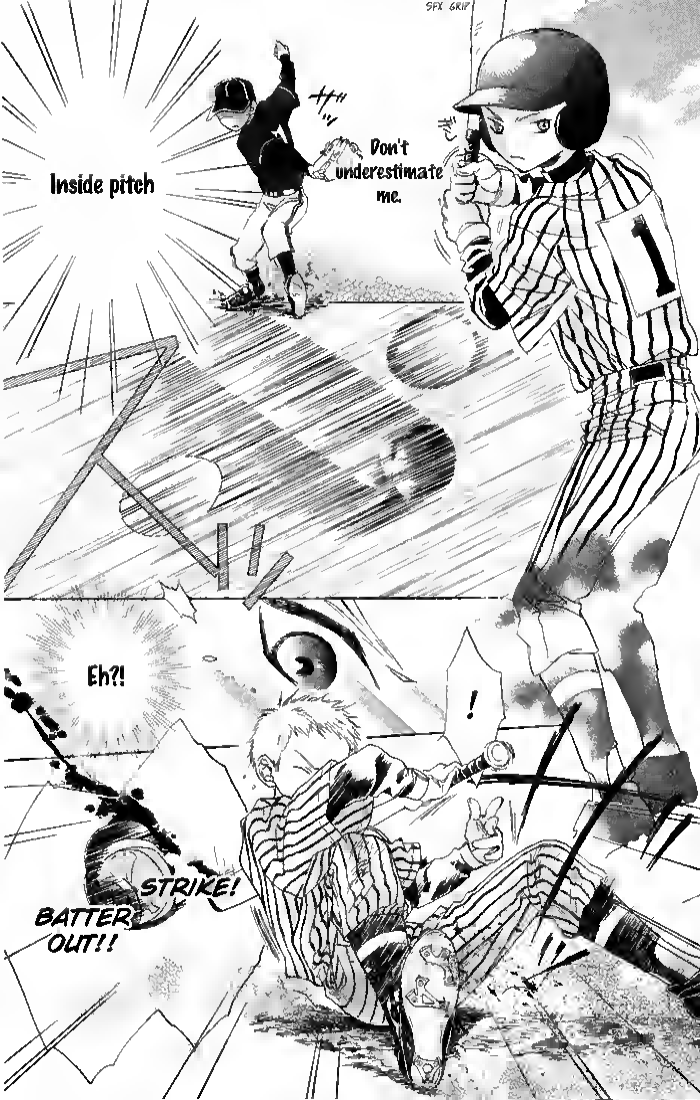
バッテリー
Battery
CHAPTER 1
START

AKUMA NO CHIKARA
Battery

Passing serpentine ridge...
It was at end of March that me and onii-chan came to this town.
NII-CHAN, LOOK,
IT'S THAT!

IT'S NITTA CITY.
WAAH!
I'M FINE, SINCE THEN I WASN'T IN THE HOSPITAL.
BREATHE NITTA'S GOOD AIR AND STAY HEALTHY.
IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR SEIHA.
Hey, it's dangerous
IT'S AMAZING!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU LIKE IT.
BECAUSE FROM NOW, WE WILL LIVE IN MAMA'S DAD'S HOME IN NITTA.

HIROSHI-SAN IS TRANSFERRING TOO
SO IT MIGHT BE GOOD THAT WE CAME BACK HERE
It's not good at all.
I just...
don't have any business there anymore.
やあああ
homer
pitcher don't mind
I'll hit the next ball.


SFX GRIP
Inside pitch
Don't underestimate me.
1
Eh?!
!
STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!!

When I came forth more with my hands, the ball sunk...?!
Progressive ball?!
Someone else being able to throw a ball which I can't...
Damn...!!
Nii-chan.
-chan

NII-CHAN!
WE ARRIVED TO OJII-CHAN'S HOUSE!

THE FAMOUS COACH OF NITTA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CLUB
PARTICIPATED AT KOUSHIEN FOUR TIMES IN THE SPRING AND SIX TIMES IN THE SUMMER.
SINCE IOKA YOUZOU QUIT 14 YEARS AGO AS A COACH,
NITTA HIGH SCHOOL DIDN'T APPEAR AT KOUSHIEN ANYMORE

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
ABOUT JII-CHAN.
WELL... IT'S PRETTY OLD HISTORY.
I THOUGHT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
...IF IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME OR NOT
This person doesn't understand anything.
IS UP TO ME TO DECIDE FOR MYSELF, DAD.

OVER THERE THE CREAM COLORED BUILDING,
IS NITTA HIGH SCHOOL YOU'LL ATTEND FROM APRIL
I KNOW
...
AH LOOK, TAKUMI
THEY DON'T HAVE THAT STRONG OF A BASEBALL CLUB, SINCE
THIS YEAR THE MAIN FORCE PLAYERS LEFT THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT IS IN DANGER
YOU FOUND OUT EVEN THAT?

I'LL GO.
TO ONLY JUST STAND THERE AT THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AND NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT
I WONDER IF IT'S TOO WEAK AND UNSATISFACTORY FOR HARADA THE PITCHER.

I'M GOING RUNNING
RATHER THAN JOINING A TEAM THAT IS OBVIOUS TO WIN
WOULDN'T IT BE MORE INTERESTING IF THEY SAID THAT IT'S BECAUSE HARADA CAME HERE*.
T/N: HE IS REFERRING TO HIM JOINING THE WEAKER TEAM AND LEADING THEM TO THE NATIONALS SOLELY BECAUSE HE JOINED THEM.

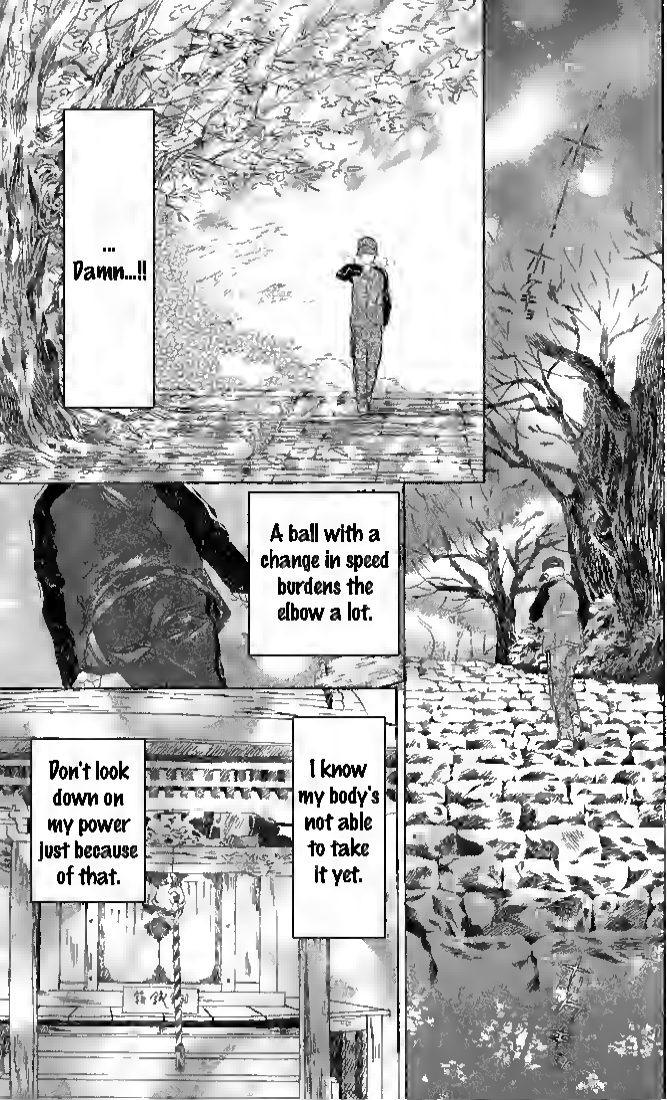
RUNNING?
...
SO YOU CAME,
TAKUMI.
Ioka Youzou, hmm?

He's surprisingly short,
...
but I have business with you.
...JII-CHAN,
TEACH ME HOW TO THROW A BALL WITH A CHANGE OF SPEED

JIN-CHAN, YOU KNOW HOW I THROW MY BALL?
AT YOUR AGE THAT STRAIGHT BALL IS ENOUGH
WHAT IS THIS OUT OF THE BLUE?!
Isn't there something better to talk about?
I SAW THE SEMIFINALS AT THE CHUUGOKU TOURNAMENT
STILL BE ABLE TO BE A SINKER
TO CURVE AND
IF A STRAIGHT BALL GETS IN, IT NATURALLY SINKS
DID THAT LOOK LIKE A SINKER? BECAUSE IT WAS IN A FORM OF A UNDER THROW,
Then... he saw that.
IT WAS DEFINITELY A SINKER!

I WAS STRIKED OUT!
So I won't forgive that
AS A PITCHER I ALWAYS HAVE TO PERFORM AT A HIGHER LEVEL
IT'S POPULARLY USED BOTH IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL!
I'M REFERRING TO THE SINKER.
the other guys can throw it and I can't...!
I DON'T PLAN TO USE IT IN A MATCH,
BUT
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO THROW IT!
TEACH IT TO ME.
NO.

TAKUMI.
THERE'S MORE IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO DO INSTEAD OF LEARNING A NEW BALL WITH A CHANGE OF SPEED
LOOK A BIT MORE AHEAD
FOOL.
BASEBALL
IS FAR DEEPER THAN YOU THINK


...
Damn...!!
A ball with a change in speed burdens the elbow a lot.
I know my body's not able to take it yet.
Don't look down on my power just because of that.

I want to throw my serious ball,
Now
I'm not as much of a kid as jii-chan thinks I am.
Jii-chan's the one who doesn't understand a thing.
but it's impossible to do it here.
There's nowhere to be found a guy that can catch it.

I want to throw.
Damn!!
That mit is
I want to throw.
the sole mit that can catch my ball.
I want to throw.
Why isn't there anyone?!!

I want it right now.
I want to throw.
I want it.

I don't mind who it is...
NICE PITCHING!

...What?
He...
HERE.
YOU'RE HARADA TAKUMI, RIGHT?
THE ONE FROM THE WHITE TIGER'S.

Huge, Is he from the judo club?
—AM I THAT FAMOUS?
WELL, YEAH.
TO BE HONEST, I FOLLOW YOU TOO.
I HEARD FROM OUR COACH THAT YOU'RE HARADA'S IOKA JII-SAN'S GRANDSON.
IT MUST BE HARD TO COME TO HIROSHIMA, TO JII-SAN'S HOME. I SAW YOUR MATCH AT CHUUGOKU TOURNAMENT.
...
OUR TEAM, LAST YEAR, GOT UP TO THE PREFECTURE TOURNAMENT
THAT'S WHERE I FIRST SAW YOU
—PREFECTURE TOURNAMENT?

...THEN YOU'LL REALLY BECOME A MIDDLE SCHOOLER THIS YEAR?
YEAH, NITTA STARS.
A middle schooler with that body...?
NATURALLY, I FIRST NEED TO GRADUATE FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
He's...
And carrying such a heavy looking bucket, without distress, with only one hand...
HEY GOU-CHAN, LET'S GO BACK
IT GOT DARK ALREADY
I get it. I get it.
He has amazing power.

See you soon
Takumi-chan eye eye
WILL YOU RIDE IN THE BACK?
NO, IT'S FINE, I'LL RUN.
HARADA'S BALL HAS LENGTH.
LET'S GO HALF-WAY TOGETHER.
ANY BATTERS ON HAND?
YES.

THAT BALL CAME IN PRETTY LOW
IT CAN CONSIDERABLY JAM THE BATTER
FORCIBLY GOT STRUCK OUT
WHAT KIND OF A STRIKE?
A STRIKE OUT

SHALL I
THROW IT?

Stops.
...FOR REAL?!
Though it's hard.
YOU'RE A CATCHER, RIGHT?
WILL YOU TRY TO CATCH MY BALL?
EH?
WILL YOU REALLY THROW IT?!

SURE.
THEN I'LL COME TOMORROW
AT 10 O'CLOCK SHARP!
IN THE MORNING WE'LL BE MOVING LUGGAGE
I'LL HELP OUT!
Leave it to me!
I UNDERSTOOD THE GOU-CHAN PART BUT WHAT'S AFTER IT?
the surname
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
EH?
NAGAKURA!
NAGAKURA GOU!
ah

That doesn't concern us. I didn't ask.
MY HOME'S PRETTY NEAR
AND YOUR AND MY MOM WERE CLASS-MATES
It's wonderful
Not bad.
...with a catcher's squat I can practice pitching.
Then see you don't forget
I'll be able to throw as much as I want!!
With this
TAKUMI,
YOU'RE LATE.
We're already eating

A ROUND TRIP TO THE TEMPLE IS 5 KM.
that took you rather long, huh
WE DROVE MANY HOURS IN THE CAR,
EVEN TAKUMI WOULD BE WORN OUT.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
ON A 5 KM RUNNING PATH I'LL BE LATE JUST BECAUSE I'M WORN OUT?
DAD,
EH
AM I WRONG?

TAKUMI!
WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE?! CUT IT OUT ALREADY!
EVERY-ONE'S HAVING AN EN-JOYABLE MEAL.
QUIT BEING SO FOUL MOUTHED.
BE A BIT MORE AWARE OF YOUR SUR-ROUND-INGS!
...why don't they understand?

I never fail to go running, since I've been doing it since I was four.
In all matches I throw alone.
They should know it, yet...
why they don't understand me at all?!!

YOU TALKED WITH SOMEONE,
NII-CHAN?
DID YOU MEET SOMEONE ON THE WAY,
AND TALKED WITH THEM?
—THERE WAS THIS ONE STRANGE GUY,
NAGAKURA GOU
HOO, YOU MET GOU?

We will meet them tomorrow too
They returned to Nitta too
THAT'S THE SON OF NAGAKURA HOSPITAL
YOU AND MAKIKO WERE CLASS-MATES...
RIGHT, SECCHAN'S PLACE
SO SHE HAD A SON THE SAME AGE AS TAKUMI?
...SEIWA, LET GO OF MY HAND
ぱっ
SORRY
BUT NII-CHAN'S HAND IS
HARD AND WARM

SEIHA,
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE IF NII-CHAN'S LATE
IT'LL EITHER BE BECAUSE HE GOT INJURED, LOST HIS WAY OR HE STOPPED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE, RIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T GET INJURED ON YOUR WAY BACK AND YOU LOOKED VERY HAPPY SO
I KNEW IT MUST BE LAST REASON
YOU'RE AMAZING

I HAVE LOTS OF BREAKS FROM SCHOOL
YOU'RE LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES
I READ ALL HOLMES' STORIES
SAY NII-CHAN
WILL I GET HEALTHY IF WE STAY AT NITTA?
WILL I BECOME LIKE NII-CHAN?

It's impossible for you, Seiha.
.. WHO KNOWS
ALINTIE, WHERE SHOULD I CARRY THIS?

HIROSHI-SAN'S COMPANY EMPLOYEES CAME TOO, SO WE'LL CLEAN UP PRETTY FAST.
THANKS, SECCHAN
Please don't hold back to use him.
GOU-KUN'S A REAL HELP.
HARADA!
PUT ON SOME GLOVES PROPERLY TO MOVE THE BOXES.
too
DON'T ORDER ME.
too nosy
GOU-CHAN I LEAVE THIS TO YOU TOO
I WORRY ABOUT YOU.
CATCHER NEEDS AN ASSISTANT, RIGHT?!
HOW DID THIS TURN INTO A DISCUSSION OF FORMING A BATTERY?

WE'LL BE
DEFINITELY
!
WHAT'S WITH THAT CONFIDENCE...?
RATHER THAN THAT...

YOU'LL THROW IT, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT A TOKAREV* RIGHT?
THAT'S A BALL
*A GUN
YOU'RE RATHER FRUSTRATED
WHA...
What does he know about me...

I ge-...
HARADA
I LIKE YOU.
LET GO, STOP IT.
ARE YOU A HOMO?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOT A RACE BALL
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND IT'S ABOUT YOUR BALL!
...scaring me like that...
GOOD, I'LL STILL WORK HARD.
Nii-chan, are you all right?
He's fine, totally fine.
Are you an idiot?!
YOU TO CARRY THE BEDS, SO SHE'S CALLING FOR YOU.
When he showed me yesterday that face...
He's such a brat.
What's with him?!

He's not a guy that can catch my ball!..
AND HARADA
WHAT IS IT?
WHEN WE GO TO KOUSHIEN
Hey Gou-chan, Back home!
GOOD!!
THAT WOULD BE AN A EXTREMELY UNCOOL WAY TO CALL ME, RIGHT?
STOP CALLING ME GOU-CHAN
AT LEAST LEAVE OUT THE -CHAN PART
I BEG YOU!!
Hurry, hurry
...

He's really a strange guy...
Crap such an affluente mate guy
139

OUTSIDE
Just when I thought it was finished
WHERE ARE TAKUMI AND GOU-KUN?
OH MY?
She's not here either
OUTSIDE?
seriously

His mit
is pretty used up.

And is prudently maintained.
He might surprisingly be able to do it?
GOOD, LET'S DO IT!

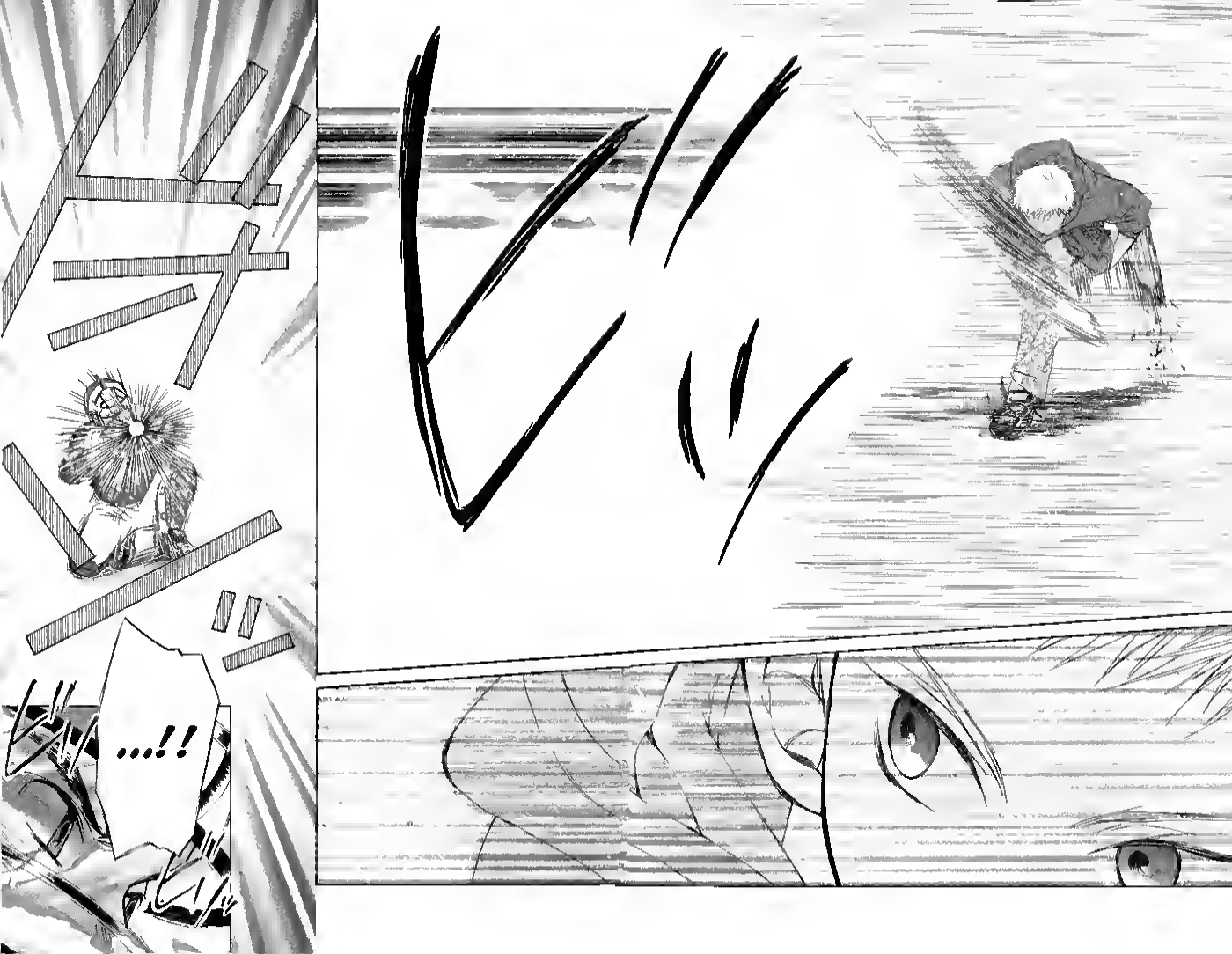
from
that
mit.
The mound is
18.44 meters
away

That's the sound.

!
!!
HARADA, DID YOU THROW SERIOUSLY?
...
I always wanted to hear that sound...
YOU'RE RIGHT
I CAN'T MAKE IT FLY SO MUCH RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING?
!!
ANYONE CAN THROW THAT
IF IT'S BALL LIKE THIS ONE

Don't compare my ball with pitchers from here!!
...anyone is able to throw it?!
SEIHA!
GO GET MY SPIKES!
...IF PITCHER HARADA IS SERIOUS THEN
CATCHER NAGAKURA WILL BE TOO
Don't mess with me!

HARADA!
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
COME AT ME WITH A STRAIGHT ONE!



DON'T DROP IT
...SO heavy...!
WHAT?
YOU PLAN TO LET THE RUNNER GET TO FIRST BASE?
IF THERE WAS RUNNER AT FIRST BASE HE WOULD DEFINITELY STEAL THE BASE.

WELL
ONE OR TWO MIGHT GET THERE...
IF IT'S UP TO TWO I'LL FORGIVE YOU!
ガシ

...
Pant
Pant
...I DID IT

HOW IS IT!
I CAUGHT IT, HARADA!
...WHAT'S THE POINT OF BOASTING ABOUT EVERY CATCH.
that's your glare.
BUT THAT'S FIVE BALLS!
I CAUGHT FIVE BALLS PROPERLY!
...that's right, five balls.
He already caught five of my balls.

as if I'd let him catch my ball that easily!
Damn.
THEN
GOU-CHAN MANAGED TO NOT LET THE BALL DROP
In such a countryside, a catcher who doesn't pass through the prefecture tournament...
THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS, SEIHA
NII-CHAN BECAME VERY HAPPY SOME-HOW

It's fine like that, Takumi.
Baseball that you do now,
throwing straight balls to the catcher's mit,
that's fine, Takumi.

SFX: FANT
This feels nice.
HARADA!
YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT SCATTERED!
There's a guy who can catch
my full speed ball.

This feels so nice.
THOSE TWO...
YEAH, MAYBE THEY'LL BECOME A BATTERY.
...that's

nii-chan and Gou-chan's
the best batte-ry
starting.
CHAPTER 1 "START" END